

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION

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TO Chief of Station, (San Salvador) 16-26
INFO Chief of Station, (Miami) 16-4
FROM Chief, Western Hemisphere Division
SUBJECT 0 Establishment of Gambling Casinos in El Salvador

ACTION REQUIRED REFERENCES

ACTION: See paragraphs 3 and 4.

1. The following information was provided by the former COS, Miami. The impetus for his memo came from a 16-2 (Guatemala City) cable that alleged an unidentified group of Cuban millionaires in Miami were giving support to the incumbent Guatemalan Government in return for favorable government treatment toward impending gambling legislation. The source of this information is a wealthy Cuban (naturalized American) who resides in Miami.

2. Source reported that Manuel GONZALEZ, identified only as a cousin of Ricardo ARIZA is involved in activities to gain gambling concessions in El Salvador. GONZALEZ and possibly ARIZA work with an alleged land developer in Florida known as Juanito ROMANACH. ROMANACH in turn has been and possibly still may be on very friendly terms with the well-known Mafia figure in Tampa, TRAFFICANTE (TRAFFICANTE is a household word in Cuban crime circles in Miami). According to the source the initial thrust of this appeal will be through tourism and investment in tourism rather than through electoral support for any specific candidate. Key figures in this plan include (fnu) ALVAREZ of The International Bank, Miami, Florida; (Mr.) William PALLET, a well-known Coral Gables banker; and Manuel REBOZO, a Miami City councilman. In subsequent conversations, Source revealed that one of the

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22 CLASSIFICATION

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"driving hands" behind this venture and ventures of this type throughout Central America is one Dino CELLINI, a well-known Mafia figure and business partner of Meyer LANSKY. CELLINI recently succeeded in establishing a front for gambling activities in El Salvador known as Servitur, S.A. The manager of this operation is Alberto LOPEZ Candel (Identity). LOPEZ is reportedly connected with Manuel REBOZO.

3.24 The gist of the above information can be discussed with [] providing none of the names of those in the United States are mentioned because most if not all are U.S. citizens. Reference should be made only in general to "wealthy Cuban exile gambling interests" in the U.S.

4. Headquarters would appreciate Station comments regarding the above particularly LOPEZ's involvement in the gambling business and also any connections he may have with the Cuban community in Miami.

MAD
Marilyn A. DAKOSKI

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